1995-96. No further incrase is possible during the year.

Licences given for distillation and brewing of alcoholic beverages

2249. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have in the recent past given licences to the food processing sector units in the State of Madhya pradesh for distillation and brewing of alcoholic beverages; and

(b) if so, what are the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The Government has issued a few Letters of Intent for the manufacture of beer and potable alcohol from non-molassesbased rawmaterials, in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Number of LOIs Issued

Name of District	Potable Alcohol	Beer
Raisen	3	1
Dhar	1	1
Dewas	—	1
Bhind	—	2
Vidisha	—	3
Narsinghpur	—	1
Chhindwara	—	1
Datia	—	1
Total	4	11

पेप्सी कोला में गाय की चर्बी का प्रयुक्त किया जाना

2250. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या **खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित समाचार के अनुसार पेप्सी कोला द्वारा उत्पादित "चटनी" (सोस) में गाय की चर्बी अथवा इसका कोई दूसरा हिस्सा प्रयुक्त किया जाता है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर हां हो तो सरकार ने पेप्सी कोला के विरूद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की है; और

(ग) यदि कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरूण गोगोई): (क) से (ग) मै० पेप्सी कोला को "चटनी" (सॉस) तैयार करने के लिए लाइसेंस नहीं दिया गया है। खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम, 1954 तथा फल उत्पाद आदेश 1955 के तहत "चटनी" (सॉस) तैयार करने के लिए गाय की चर्बी या उसके किसी दूसरे हिस्से का इस्तेमाल करने की अनुमति नहीं है।

Investment in Indo-Russia Joint Venture Project

2251. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been entered into with Russia to use the debt repayment funds for investment in joint venture projects; and

(b) if so, what are the projects identified and how much amount allocated for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no formal agreement with Russia with respect to the use of rupee debt repayment funds for investement in joint ventrue projects. However, during Prime Minister's visit to Moscow in June/July, 1994, it was agreed, in principle, that a part of the rupee funds could be used for investment in agreed projects in India and Russia.

(b) Progress has been made on the project for the modernisation of

Novorossisk port with participation of Indian companies and the Russian government has allocated the equivalent of US $ 250 million from the rupee funds for this project.

During his recent visit to India, Russian Deputy Prime Ministry Yuri Yarov had indicated that, apart from the Novorossisk port project, the Russian side was interested in the construction of the second stage of a hotel in Novgorod with the use of the rupee funds. He had also indicated that, so far as investments in India were concerned that, Russian side was interested in three projects for the production, respectively, of shock resistant polystyrene, an environment friendly chlorofluorocarbon substitute and titanium dioxide.

Restructuring the ITI

2252. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Telephone Industry has suffered heavy losses durig 1994-95, if so, what is the level of losses and the reasons thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large work force at the different units of ITI is underemployed and the infrastructure under-utilised;

(c) if so, unit-wise details thereof;

(d) what steps hae been planned by Government to streamline the situaiton;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to restructure ITI into 3 independent corporate units to compete entities to compete among themselves and enter into indepenent strategic alliances with foreign manufacturers, and if so, what is the status of that proposal; and

(f) whether it is a fact that a number of new digital switching technologies have been adopted by the DOT and these are to be produced in the country and whether Government explored the possibilities of different units of ITI undertaking this manufacture through joint ventures, transfer of technology etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS/ (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

The level of loss in ITI Ltd. for the year 1994-95 has been provisionally estimated to be Rs. 81.25 crore. The loss is primarily due to fall in the prices of telecom equipment following large competition.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. ITI Ltd. also has the problems of under employees surplus manpower and less than optimal utilisaiton of its infrastructure. Out of the total manpower of 27,477 of the Company as on 31-3-95, surplus employees, unit-wise are estimated to be as follows:

Bangalore — 4000
Rae Bareli — 2000
Naini — 2000
Srinagar — 155
(J & K)

(b) Basic responsibility for planning the operations of the company lies with the manegement of the Company.

However, with a view to optimally utilised the infrastructures of its own PSEs viz. ITI & HTL, as also to keep these PSEs commercially viable. DOT is following a policy under which 30 to 35% of DOT's orders for the items manufactured by these companis are kept reserved for them.

In addition to the above policy, the Government has also taken action to suitably (i) compensate the losses incurred by Srinagar Unit (ii) fund expenditure on Voluntary Retirement Scheme from national Renewal Fund.

In any case, efforts for streamlining the situation is a continuing process and, therefore, Government keeps on supporting ITI's proposals for diversification of products and customers.